

REV. FIDENCIO SILVA-FLORES, M.SP.S.
(MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

**DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES 2013
PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Vicar for Clergy Database

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

Rev Fidencio Silva, M.Sp.S.*Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	10/28/1949	<i>Age:</i>	63
<i>Birth Place</i>	Mexico City, Mexico	<i>Deanery:</i>	0
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	1/1/1978		
<i>Diocese Name</i>			
<i>Date of Incardination</i>			
<i>Religious Community</i>	Missionaries of the Holy Spirit		
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Left Archdiocese		
<i>Canon State</i>	Relig. Order Priest	<i>Incard Process</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>			
<i>Seminary</i>			
<i>Ethnicity</i>	English		

Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training

Date Background Check
Virtus Training Date

Assignment History

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Left Archdiocese, PRIEST NOT TO MINISTER.	5/1/1995	
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles, Active Service, Young Adult Ministry, Office of Hispanic Ministry	2/25/1991	6/30/1993
Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Novitiate, Long Beach Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/26/1990	4/30/1995
Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Novitiate, Long Beach Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	11/9/1989	7/25/1990
Casa de la Cruz, Camarillo Co-Director, Active Service, Co-Director of Vocations	8/1/1984	3/14/1986
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Oxnard Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	10/11/1978	7/31/1984

MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Theologate
470 North Loop Dr.
Camarillo, CA. 93010

December 12, 1995

Rev. Msgr. Timothy Dyer
 Vicar for Clergy
 Archdiocese of Los Angeles
 1531 West Ninth Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90015-1194

Dear Msgr. Dyer:

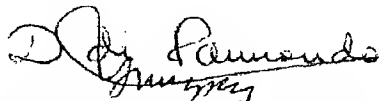
Enclosed, please find three documents related to the allegations presented to your attention by Mr. REDACTED against Fr. Fidencio S. Silva-Flores, M.Sp.S.

The First of the documents is the "Report on the Interview with Fr. Fidencio Simon Silva-Flores on an allegation of Sexual Misconduct" dated April 7, 1995. This report comes directly from my personal notes taken during the interview in which you, Fr. Fidencio and myself were present. I wish you could review them to see if you would like to suggest any changes.

REDACTED

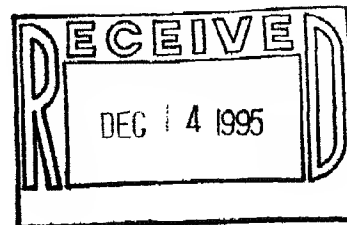
May the Lord be the hope and the joy of your life.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Domenico Di Raimondo, M.Sp.S.

cc: Fr. REDACTED
 Fr.
 Fr. Fidencio S. Silva-Flores, M.Sp.S.



30374

REDACTED

**NOTE: THIS FAX MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.
IF YOU RECEIVE IT IN ERROR, PLEASE CALL US IMMEDIATELY AT THE NUMBER
ABOVE.**

Date: April 2, 2002

To: Cardinal Mahony
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Re: Father Fidenco Silva Flores

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 2

Original will follow:

Original will not follow: XX

MESSAGE:

30361

XVIII 000117

REDACTED

April 4, 2004

SENT VIA FAX

Archbishop Roger Cardinal Mahony
 Archdiocese of Los Angeles
 9424 Wilshire Boulevard
 Los Angeles, CA 90010

REDACTED

REDACTED

Re: Father Fidenco Silva Flores

Dear Cardinal Mahony and REDACTED

I am writing this letter to bring information to your attention regarding repeated molestation of a number of youth by Father Fidenco Silva Flores when he served at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard. I am unable to locate Father Flores and I bring this to your attention so you can turn over any information you have of him to law enforcement. Please advise me of Father Flores' whereabouts and what action, if any, is being taken to prevent him from abusing others.

Your prompt attention to this is appreciated.

Very truly yours

REDACTED

A Partnership of Professional Corporations.

*Managing Partner * Also admitted in Wisconsin * Also admitted in Washington, D.C. * Also admitted in Missouri * Also admitted in Illinois
 * Diplomate Civil Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy * Certified Trial Specialist by Minnesota Bar Association
 * Diplomate Criminal Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy

MAIL ROOM - Date: 4-2-02

APR - 2 2002

To:

M. J. Cox

From:

THE ATTACHED CORRESPONDENCE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO YOUR OFFICE:

- ☐ To answer for the Cardinal; send a copy to this office
- ☐ To prepare reply for the Cardinal's signature
- ☐ To prepare draft letter for program/event
- ☐ To review and return with comments
- ☒ To handle entirely
- ☐ For your information and files

Comments:

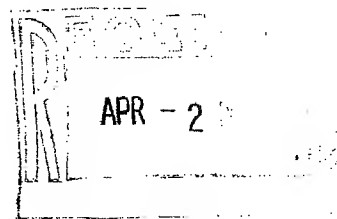
Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

1



NOTE: THIS FAX MAY CONTAIN PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.
IF YOU RECEIVE IT IN ERROR, PLEASE CALL US IMMEDIATELY AT THE NUMBER
ABOVE.

Date: April 2, 2002

To: Cardinal Mahony
REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Re: Father Fidenco Silva Flores

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 2

Original will follow:

Original will not follow: XX

MESSAGE:

30364

XVIII 000120

REDACTED

April 2, 2002

SENT VIA FAX

Archbishop Roger Cardinal Mahony
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010

REDACTED

REDACTED

Re: Father Fidenco Silva Flores

Dear Cardinal Mahony and REDACTED

I am writing this letter to bring information to your attention regarding repeated molestation of a number of youth by Father Fidenco Silva Flores when he served at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard. I am unable to locate Father Flores and I bring this to your attention so you can turn over any information you have of him to law enforcement. Please advise me of Father Flores' whereabouts and what action, if any, is being taken to prevent him from abusing others.

Your prompt attention to this is appreciated.

Very truly yours
REDACTED

30365

A Partnership of Professional Corporations.

*Managing Partner * Also admitted in Wisconsin ⁿ Also admitted in Washington, D.C. ^h Also admitted in Missouri ^l Also admitted in Illinois
| Diplomate Civil Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy * Certified Trial Specialist by Minnesota Bar Association
° Diplomate Criminal Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

April 6, 2002

CONFIDENTIAL

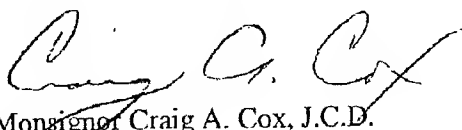
Reverend (REDACTED)
REDACTED

Dear Father REDACTED

I am grateful for our opportunity to speak on the phone. As I promised, enclosed are copies of the materials related to Father Fidencio Silva. I trust that this is helpful to you.

Please keep us advised regarding any developments in this matter.

Your brother in Christ,


Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

enclosures

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2002 3:46 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW: Fr. REDACTED
Importance: High

REDACTED

F.Y.I. -- but we were able to reach him at the REDACTED number.

L.M.

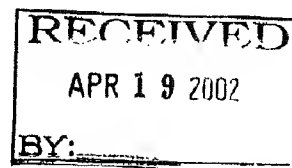
-----Original Message-----

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2002 3:45 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: Fr. REDACTED
Importance: High

Fr. REDACTED gave me another number where Msgr. Cox can better reach him. It's as follows, REDACTED. Apparently, the number REDACTED is a fax number. REDACTED called me and mentioned that he had given you some information to give to Monsignor Cox and asked me to call Fr. REDACTED and let him know....



MISIONEROS DEL ESPIRITU SANTO
PROVINCIA FELIX DE JESUS - GUADALAJARA, A.R.



15 de Abril 2002

MONSEÑOR CRAIG A. COX, J.C.D.
VICAR FOR CLERGY
3424 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
90010-2241

REDACTED

Le enviamos un saludo fraterno en el Señor resucitado.

Recibí copia de los documentos traídos personalmente por el REDACTED pues aún no me llegan por correo, referentes al P. Fidencio Silva Flores.

Con toda formalidad y seriedad iniciaremos los contactos necesarios con el REDACTED REDACTED, y con el P. Silva.

Le he pedido al P. REDACTED que se entreviste a la brevedad posible con el REDACTED y yo personalmente lo haré con el REDACTED de manera inmediata.

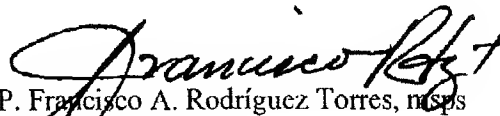
Les informaremos de los resultados de esas entrevistas y les pedimos nos comuniquen lo que sobre este asunto vaya apareciendo.

REDACTED también buscará un abogado para que nos asesore en esto, y nombraremos de nuestra parte a un sacerdote delegado para ello.

Agradecemos todas sus indicaciones y nos ponemos a su disposición.

Que el Señor le siga iluminando con su Espíritu Santo. Me encomiendo a su oración.

Su hermano en Cristo Sacerdote.


P. Francisco A. Rodríguez Torres, msp
REDACTED

c.c.p. REDACTED REDACTED
REDACTED

30356

**PRESS STATEMENT OF PRIESTS FROM OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE PARISH IN OXNARD**

ALL OF US HERE AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH ARE DEEPLY SADDENED TO HEAR THAT THERE ARE CLAIMS INVOLVING ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE BY FATHER FIDENCIO SILVA, A FORMER PRIEST OF THE PARISH.

WHILE NONE OF US HERE HAVE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THESE ALLEGED CLAIMS UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, AND WHILE WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS PROVE TO BE UNTRUE, I/WE WANT TO ASSURE THE MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH, AND THE PUBLIC, THAT OUR SUPERIORS ARE ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER AND WILL TAKE THE APPROPRIATE STEPS, AS NECESSARY, TO COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

ANY MEMBERS OF THE PARISH WHO FEEL THE NEED FOR COUNSELING IN THIS MATTER ARE URGED TO CONTACT ANY ONE OF US HERE AS WE ARE READY TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

THANK YOU.

Los Angeles Times
latimes.com



Fidencio Silva, M.F.S.

<http://www.latimes.com/editions/ventura/la-000031382may03.story>

VENTURA COUNTY

8 Men Claim Former Oxnard Priest Sexually Abused Them as Children

Investigation: Police are pursuing allegations against a pastor now working in Mexico. Suits have been filed against him, his order and the L.A. Archdiocese.

By BETH SHUSTER and RICHARD WINTON
 TIMES STAFF WRITERS

May 3 2002

Oxnard police are investigating allegations by eight men who say they were sexually abused as children at a church and on trips by a priest now working in Mexico.

The eight men, including two who are now police officers, sued Father Fidencio Silva, his order and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on Thursday, alleging battery, negligent supervision and sexual abuse. Under California law intended to protect civil defendants in such cases, the four lawsuits did not name the priest or other defendants. However, the attorneys filing the lawsuits provided the names.

Oxnard Police Chief Art Lopez said his department has begun an investigation into the allegations of abuse by Silva. The lawsuits filed in Los Angeles Superior Court seek unspecified monetary damages. They allege Silva actively concealed the sexual exploitation of the boys and that church officials "knew or reasonably should have known" about the priest's conduct.

The suits accuse Silva, 45, of sexually abusing the boys from 1979 to about 1985 after becoming a pastor at Oxnard's Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. Some alleged abuses occurred during trips to Mexico, said Jeffrey R. Anderson, a St. Paul, Minn., attorney handling the case.

"This guy is a pedophile predator," Anderson said. "We have identified a total of 10 victims in a few years in Oxnard.... He is still out there and in position to ruin the lives of Mexican children. Our goal is prevention first, and maybe justice someday."

The men only recently confided the abuse to each other, they say. All are identified in the lawsuits as Juan Doe.

"He told me he was painting this Christ rising for Easter Sunday," said one of the men. "He was an artist and needed a model. He arranged for me to leave school and in the upper sacristy he asked me to

30353

<http://www.latimes.com/templates/misc/printstory.jsp?slug=la%2D000031382may03>

5/3/2002

Los Angeles Times: 8 Men Claim m Oxnard Priest Sexually Abused m Childr... Page 2 of 3

disrobe.... I remember in my mind thinking, 'How does my body compare to the body of Christ?' I think I was a seventh-grader."

The man, now 35, alleges that Silva took photographs of him naked and then committed a sex act, saying he needed the photographs for a sex education class.

The man was allegedly molested from 1979 to 1983, the suit alleges.

Larry Drivon, a Stockton attorney also representing the eight men, said Silva was "sent to a dump ground for predator priests in Mexico."

Silva, also known as Silva Flores, could not be reached in Mexico for comment.

However, in a TV interview aired this week with Joel Grover, a CBS-2 reporter, Silva denied he sexually abused his accusers.

Silva is a member of Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, a small Mexico-based order that provides services to bilingual parishes.

Joe Deems, an attorney for the order, said a letter from Anderson a few weeks ago was the first notice the order had received about abuse allegations against Silva. He would not comment on the lawsuit.

Deems said an adult in 1995 complained of sexual misconduct allegedly committed by Silva the year before.

The archdiocese required the order to investigate the allegation. It determined Silva did not commit a crime, Deems said, but because of the "appearance of impropriety" he was removed from his assignment.

"He was removed from his pastoral assignment and relocated back to Mexico," Deems said. Silva took a leave of absence and underwent "some counseling" and then was assigned to a retreat in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He is permitted to say Mass and hear confessionals, Deems said.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles on Thursday, a 37-year-old former altar boy at Boyle Heights Church said he has reported to police that he was molested by a priest who was known for his work with Eastside gang members.

Lorenzo Najera alleged that the Rev. John Santillan molested him during the late 1970s, when Najera was age 12 through 17, at Santa Teresita Church.

He alleged the priest abused him in an upstairs bedroom of the church, during retreats in San Bernardino County and on a trip to Europe. He sued the priest in 1998 but the civil case was dismissed.

Santillan has been assigned to a parish in Bolivia since 1998.

"What proof does he have?" said Santillan when reached by La Opinion newspaper in the town of Cochabamba in Bolivia.

*

Times staff writer Hector Becerra contributed to this report.

30354

Ventura County Star

To print this page, select **File** then **Print** from your browser

URL: http://www.insidevc.com/vcs/county_news/article/0,1375,VCS_226_1272666,00.html

Oxnard men hope they'll help victims

Class-action suit might allow closure for abused, they say

By Tom Kiskien, kiskien@insidevc.com
July 18, 2002

Manuel Vega stepped in front of the camera and reporters at a press conference aimed at helping clergy-abuse victims come forward and clearly gave his name.

Dealing with pain and stigmas that cause many people to keep their accusations bottled inside, the Oxnard police officer and one-time altar boy said he's willing to be identified as a victim accusing a Catholic priest, who was also his godfather, of molesting him more than 20 years ago.

"There was an empowerment he had. He had an absolute power," Vega said on Wednesday, noting that going public is his way of regaining that power.

"I've seen people be victimized and sit there and cry and do nothing about it," he said.

Vega and Tranquilino Gomez, an auto mechanic from Oxnard, are the lead plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit that a lawyer said is intended to represent all child-molestation victims in the Archdiocese of the Los Angeles. It was filed Tuesday. The two men allege they and other altar boys were molested by the Rev. Fidencio Silva when he was an associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Silva denied the allegations in a television interview earlier this year in Mexico, where he was a priest with the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit religious order.

Vega said he looks at the priest, who was a close family friend, with emptiness. "There's no words to describe it," he said.

Vega is a decorated former Marine who won a community service award for his work with at-risk teens and was named the Oxnard Police Department's officer of the year for 2000.

He said the molestation, which included modeling nude for the priest's artwork, fondling and other sex acts, took place when he was 12 to 14 years old.

Gomez said he was molested by the priest at about the age of 13. He didn't tell anyone about the incident until he spoke to Vega several months ago.

Both men are still Catholics, though Vega said he has difficulty listening to a priest give a homily and at first felt as if he had lost his religion.

But "I'm not going to let him take that," he said of Silva.

As Vega and Gomez stood at the podium, three other men who allege that Silva abused them sat in the back. Two of them are Ventura County residents who asked for anonymity.

They talked about growing up in a Latino culture where Catholic priests are viewed as irrefutable authorities. They talked about the difficulty of telling parents about molestation. They said telling their stories means to relive them.

Lawyer Raymond Boucher said the class-action lawsuit is designed to give people a choice of maintaining some anonymity but still taking action.

Both of the lead plaintiffs were part of a group of eight former altar boys who sued Silva in May for alleged molestation in a case that has been folded into the class-action litigation. Boucher said lawyers involved in the case have learned of at least four others who make similar claims against Silva.

He said the lawyers have contact with more than 60 people who claim to have been molested by a priest or someone else connected with

30351

http://www.staronline.com/cr/cda/article_print/1,1250,VCS_226_1272666,00.html

7/18/2002

the church in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, noting that the lawsuit is intended to represent them.

Gomez said he wants the church to stop covering up for the people whom Vega referred to as "the rot."

"If one of us had done it," he said of alleged molestations, "we would have been thrown in prison."

Tod Tamberg, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, referred to zero-tolerance policies, a reconstituted advisory board for dealing with clergy abuse and other measures as proof the church is reforming.

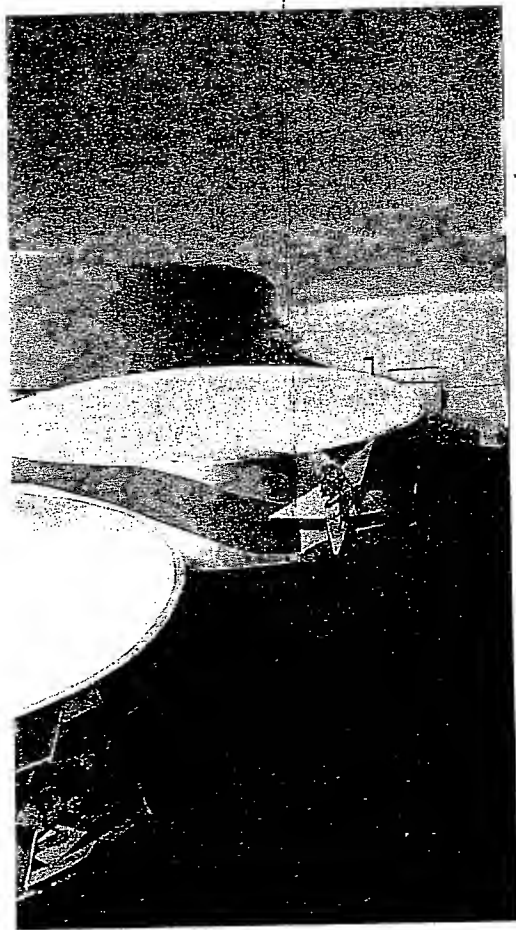
Noting he had no information about Silva's whereabouts in Mexico because the priest is under the jurisdiction of the order and not the archdiocese, Tamberg said the class-action suit could bring more healing.

"It's important to find an expedited way to resolve these cases for victims, their families and the church because we need to move forward to a brighter future," he said.

Copyright 2002, Ventura County Star. All Rights Reserved.

LA Times mmm(17) 2003 B-6

unt. But this will be
'imagined.'



KAREN TAPIA-ANDERSEN Los Angeles Times
hopes to put on the water tanks behind him. The
they on the project.

e the Tanks

ts to raise
urals on
ervoirs.

\$20,000 from its
at to have artists
al on its 2.5-mil-
water tank, which
n the Long Beach
near Firestone

als said the paint-
eted three weeks
rching American
ry soldiers im-
esthetics of what

cal pipe and drum troupe, a
Little Saigon dragon dancer, a
senior citizen helping a stu-
dent with homework and the
war memorial statue — in this
case, unwrapped.

"Everyone on the mural
lives and performs in the city,"
said Pham. "It's for the com-
munity."

It would take a five-person
crew about five months to
complete, Pham said.

Pham, who emigrated from
Vietnam in 1975 with his
family, said he sprayed graffiti
along freeways, under bridges
and on fences from Burbank
to San Diego when he was 9.

Priest Charged
in Sex Abuse of
Boys in Oxnard

Prosecutors are trying to find Father Fidencio Silva
in connection with 25 counts of child molestation.
He was last known to be stationed in Mexico.

By STEVE CHAWKINS
AND FRED ALVAREZ
Times Staff Writers

A Catholic priest who used to
be in charge of the altar-boy pro-
gram at an Oxnard church was
charged Thursday with 25
counts of child molestation by
the Ventura County district at-
torney's office.

After an investigation that
took nearly a year,
prosecutors are seek-
ing an arrest warrant
for Father Fidencio
Silva, 53, who served
at Our Lady of Guada-
lupe church from 1978
to 1986. They will start
extradition proceed-
ings when they locate
Silva, who as recently
as 2002 was serving at
a church in Mexico.

The criminal
charges follow a law-
suit filed by eight men,
including two corporate execu-
tives, an attorney and two police
officers. They were altar boys, 11
to 15 years old at the time, who
helped Silva at services, accord-
ing to a spokesman for the dis-
trict attorney's office.

The criminal charges came as
the clock was ticking on a state-
imposed one-year limit between
police learning of possible molesta-
tions and prosecutors filing
charges. They also came with
Easter just around the corner —
a season of renewal especially
meaningful this year for Manuel
Vega, 36, an Oxnard police offi-
cer who is one of Silva's accusers.

"What this does, not only for
myself but other victims of Fa-
ther Silva, is validate us as vic-
tims," said Vega, who this week
urged a state Assembly commit-
tee to freeze the statute of limita-
tions in child sex-abuse cases.

"For so many years, we all
lived with these horrific inci-

claimed to have been molested
by Silva at the church, in the rec-
tory and on outings. The group
hired attorneys to file suit
against Silva, his order and the
Los Angeles Archdiocese.

They also urged local pros-
ecutors to take up the case.

On Thursday, Chief Assistant
Dist. Atty. Patricia Murphy said
the felony complaint caps a

painstaking investigation into
suspected sex abuse
by Silva and at least
two other former Ven-
tura County priests.

With the alleged
crimes occurring so
long ago, prosecutors
have struggled to ob-
tain evidence. They re-
cently used a grand
jury to subpoena wit-
nesses and last month
urged a judge to force
the church to turn
over documents. Joe
Deems, an attorney

for Silva's order, Missionaries of
the Holy Spirit, could not be
reached for comment. He told
The Times last May that the or-
der investigated Silva after a
1995 complaint and concluded
he had not committed a crime.

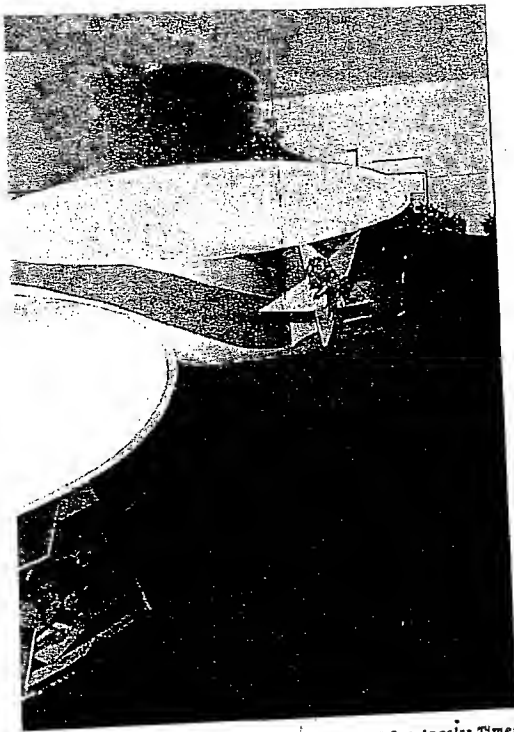
Silva received counseling dur-
ing a leave of absence, before
taking his post in San Luis Po-
tosi, a mountainous state in cen-
tral Mexico, Deems said.

In an interview last year with
a television reporter, Silva said
he asked boys to model for paint-
ings but denied molesting them.

Times staff writers Tracy Wil-
son, Jenifer Ragland and Wil-
liam Lobdell contributed to this
report.

104958

Suspension



KAREN TAPIA-ANDERSEN *Los Angeles Times*
hopes to put on the water tanks behind him. "The
ney on the project.

e the Tanks

ts to raise
urals on
ervoirs.

\$20,000 from its
t to have artists
al on its 2.5-mil-
water tank, which
n the Long Beach
near Firestone

als said the paint-
eted three weeks
arching American
ry soldiers im-
esthetics of what
white tank that
dered an eyesore.
ives you a patriotic
ing, adds flavor to
y and makes the
better," said John
manager of the
on.
autiful, and right
perfect time to have

ved, Westminster's
ld be much more
A U.S. flag would
und the 21,600
steel tanks with
nd five stars, each
he city's cultural di-
ere would be a La-
a member of a lo-

cal pipe and drum troupe, a
Little Saigon dragon dancer, a
senior citizen helping a stu-
dent with homework and the
war memorial statue — in this
case, unwrapped.

"Everyone on the mural
lives and performs in the city,"
said Pham. "It's for the com-
munity."

It would take a five-person
crew about five months to
complete, Pham said.

Pham, who emigrated from
Vietnam in 1975 with his
family, said he sprayed graffiti
along freeways, under bridges
and on fences from Burbank
to San Diego when he was 9.
By 10, he had learned to air-
brush. He is now working for
the city's Channel 3 station as
a part-time video production
assistant and owns an art stu-
dio in Long Beach.

He turned the blank walls
at Dana Hills High School in
Dana Point into a wildlife
scene with buffalo, Native
Americans and waterfalls. He
also painted murals at the Na-
tional Wildlife Refuge at the
Naval Weapons Station in
Seal Beach.

"Everything that I see
blank, I want to paint," Pham
said. "But this will be the most
gigantic mural I've ever imag-
ined."

in connection with 25 counts of child molestation.
He was last known to be stationed in Mexico.

By STEVE CHAWKINS
AND FRED ALVAREZ
Times Staff Writers

A Catholic priest who used to
be in charge of the altar-boy pro-
gram at an Oxnard church was
charged Thursday with 25
counts of child molestation by
the Ventura County district at-
torney's office.

After an investigation that
took nearly a year,
prosecutors are seek-
ing an arrest warrant
for Father Fidencio
Silva, 53, who served
at Our Lady of Guada-
lupe church from 1978
to 1986. They will start
extradition proceed-
ings when they locate
Silva, who as recently
as 2002 was serving at
a church in Mexico.

The criminal
charges follow a law-
suit filed by eight men,
including two corporate execu-
tives, an attorney and two police
officers. They were altar boys, 11
to 15 years old at the time, who
helped Silva at services, accord-
ing to a spokesman for the dis-
trict attorney's office.

The criminal charges came as
the clock was ticking on a state-
imposed one-year limit between
police learning of possible mole-
stations and prosecutors filing
charges. They also came with
Easter just around the corner —
a season of renewal especially
meaningful this year for Manuel
Vega, 36, an Oxnard police offi-
cer who is one of Silva's accusers.

"What this does, not only for
myself but other victims of Fa-
ther Silva, is validate us as vic-
tims," said Vega, who this week
urged a state Assembly commit-
tee to freeze the statute of limita-
tions in child sex-abuse cases.

"For so many years, we all
lived with these horrific inci-
dents in silence and shame,"
Vega said. "Now, we are one step
closer to getting to the truth."

For nearly 20 years, Vega
pushed memories of the abuse
into his subconscious, he said. In
fact, he met with the priest in
1991 to ask whether he would
consider performing a marriage
ceremony for him and his fian-
cée. But Vega said he felt
strangely anxious in the meeting
and backed away from the idea.

It wasn't until he left the Ma-
rines the next year and entered
the police academy that recollec-
tions of the alleged acts began to
emerge.

Privately grappling with his
experiences, Vega tracked down
other former altar boys who also

claimed to have been molested
by Silva at the church, in the rec-
tory and on outings. The group
hired attorneys to file suit
against Silva, his order and the
Los Angeles Archdiocese.

They also urged local pros-
ecutors to take up the case.

On Thursday, Chief Assistant
Dist. Atty. Patricia Murphy said
the felony complaint caps a
painstaking investigation into
suspected sex abuse
by Silva and at least
two other former Ven-
tura County priests.

With the alleged
crimes occurring so
long ago, prosecutors
have struggled to ob-
tain evidence. They re-
cently used a grand
jury to subpoena wit-
nesses and last month
urged a judge to force
the church to turn
over documents. Joe
Deems, an attorney

for Silva's order, Missionaries of
the Holy Spirit, could not be
reached for comment. He told
The Times last May that the or-
der investigated Silva after a
1995 complaint and concluded
he had not committed a crime.

Silva received counseling dur-
ing a leave of absence, before
taking his post in San Luis Po-
tosi, a mountainous state in cen-
tral Mexico, Deems said.

In an interview last year with
a television reporter, Silva said
he asked boys to model for paint-
ings but denied molesting them.

*Times staff writers Tracy Wil-
son, Jenifer Ragland and Wil-
liam Loddell contributed to this
report.*

104959

Suspension Ordered for Oxnard Physician

A state prosecutor
accuses the doctor
of over-prescribing
addictive narcotics.

By CATHERINE SAILLANT
Times Staff Writer

A judge this week ordered an
Oxnard physician to stop prac-
ticing medicine after a state
prosecutor alleged the doctor
had been over-prescribing addic-

SILVA

NEWSWIRE

MARCH 28, 2003 | CRIMINAL

[Print](#) | [Email](#)[Top Stories](#)[Admin/Regulatory](#)[Bankruptcy](#)[Corporate](#)[Criminal](#)[Employment](#)[Healthcare/Hosp.](#)[Insurance](#)[Judges/Judiciary](#)[Law Practice](#)[Litigation](#)[Probate](#)[Real Estate](#)[Daily Opinions](#)[Email Delivery](#)[Firm Watch](#)[Transactions](#)[California Lawyer](#)[Editorial Staff](#)[Columnists](#)[Submissions](#)**Molestation Charges**

OXNARD - The Ventura County District Attorney's Office on Thursday charged a former priest at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard with 25 counts of child molestation of eight youths occurring in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The office filed a felony criminal complaint against the Rev. Fidencio Silva, 53, charging him with molesting the youths while he presided over the altar boy program at the Oxnard church.

"Silva had access to large numbers of boys as the head of the altar boy program and various youth ministries," said Ventura Deputy District Attorney Patrice Koenig. "Up until now our focus has been the victims, but the next issue will be locating him and evaluating his assignment and transfer history."

Authorities are seeking an arrest warrant.

Archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg did not return calls for comment.

The district attorney's action brings to a dozen the number of Catholic priests who have been criminally accused of molesting parishioners in Southern California.

According to church documents obtained by the Daily Journal, Silva was ordained in 1978. He was the director of the Key of Life Youth Group from 1979 to 1982, and director of the Spanish Youth Group from 1980 to 1986 at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1986, church records show that he left the Los Angeles archdiocese.

He returned in 1989, according to the church documents, when he was in residence at the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in Playa del Rey.

Between 1991 and 1993, Silva ministered to young adults, according to the documents.

Silva left the archdiocese in 1995 and moved to Mexico, where authorities believe he now resides.

- Jeffrey Anderson

© 2003 Daily Journal Corporation. All rights reserved.

LA DAILY JOURNAL

104957

...ship manned by remote control and capable of testing the full potential of weapons aimed against it.

"Her future is in strengthening the Navy," said Capt. Theodore Frederick. "She will be attacked and will defend herself with the best technology we have to offer. Today's missiles will be used; in the future, electric weapons and lasers."

With 70 percent of naval

forces at sea in the war against Iraq, Capt. Alan Morano said such tests will help "eliminate the margin of error" in naval weaponry.

"This is exactly what gives sailors the confidence to sail in harm's way," he said.

With live fire, weaponry will be launched at the ship and its installed arms system. While attacks will be aimed at a decoy barge pulled 150 feet behind the unmanned ship, the

exercises will allow testing of the onboard systems.

Navy Ensign Kenyatta Martin, 24, of Greensboro, N.C., said that after living on the ship for two years, leaving it was a bittersweet experience.

"This is my first ship. That's my first naval experience, my first step," he said.

The USS Foster is scheduled to begin testing in 2005.

— Grace Lee

accumulation, but also on water stored in reservoirs and how much water managers think they need to hold on the chance the string of dry winters continues.

Officials at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District said they would be reviewing the details of the state report before saying what the effect probably will be on local water supplies. However, initial indications were that local water agencies might be able to receive an increase in allocations for this summer.

— Associated Press

ard enter s in court

dyman-bodyguard.

Mr. Blake, to those charges do you plead?" asked on.

ot guilty sir," said Blake, of the old "Baretta" TV ctive series.

urning to Caldwell, Dixon d for his plea to a murder piracy charge and the co- dant answered, "Not y."

Prosecutors filed a new nine- set of allegations which des 38 overt acts compiled testimony during a recent minary hearing at which the dants were ordered to l trial.

e document showed that the



Frazer Harrison/Associated Press

Robert Blake, at his arraignment in Van Nuys Superior Court on Thursday, pleaded not guilty to charges that he killed his wife.

case against Blake depends almost entirely on the testimony of two aging stuntmen who said that Blake solicited them to murder his wife. They said they refused and suggested he took the matter into his own hands.

— Associated Press

VENTURA Warrant issued for ex-priest

A former Oxnard priest accused of molesting eight former altar boys in the 1970s and '80s has been charged with 25 counts of child molestation, officials said Thursday.

Prosecutors have obtained an arrest warrant for the Rev. Fidencio Simon Silva, 53, a former priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church whose last known location was in Jesus Maria, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

The District Attorney's Office opened its investigation in April 2002 after one of the alleged victims came forward.

The alleged victims, who were between 11 and 15 years old at the time of the reported crimes, have moved on with their lives, said prosecutor Patrice Koenig, "but the psychological scars affected them greatly, especially because he was a priest."

— Grace Lee

Id start in Valley, LaBonge proposes

er the Cahuenga Pass and end ion Station in downtown Los es.

ow that we are coming close marathon's 20th year, there better time to rethink the : ... to include more neigh- ods," LaBonge said. "This is to celebrate our athletes and

our neighborhoods at the same time."

Marie Patrick, executive vice president of the marathon, said organizers are discussing LaBonge's proposal, and a decision will be made soon.

"He is proposing a major change from a looped course to one that

would be a location-to-location race," Patrick said. "That's completely different from what we've been doing."

"There are a lot of factors to take into consideration, including the elevations runners would have to cross."

— Rick Orlov

HOW TO REACH US

REGIONAL OFFICES

ANTELOPE VALLEY		SIMI VALLEY/CONEJO VALLEY	
1060 E. Palmdale Blvd., Suite 104 Palmdale, CA 93550		1197 E. Los Angeles Ave. Simi Valley, CA 93065	
News	661 / 267-5741	News	805 / 583-7607
Display Ads	661 / 267-7806	Display Ads	805 / 583-7608
Classified Ads	800 / 544-7355	Classified Ads	800 / 544-7355
SANTA CLARITA		GLENDALE/BURBANK	
24800 Avenida Rockefeller Valencia, CA 91355		116 N. Maryland Ave., Suite 130 Glendale, CA 91206	
News	661 / 257-5250	News	818 / 546-3315
Display Ads	818 / 713-3232	Delivery	818 / 546-624
Classified Ads	800 / 544-7355		

NEWS BUREAUS

WASHINGTON		SACRAMENTO	
1255 National Press Building 529 14th St NW Washington, DC 20045		925 L St., Suite 335 Sacramento, CA 95814	
News	202 / 662-8925	News	916 / 446-6723
Fax	202 / 662-8996		

Daily service: \$3.50 per week. Weekend Plus service including Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and selected weekdays: \$2.10 per week. Weekend service including Saturday, Sunday and selected weekdays: \$1.98 per week. Subscription rates may vary by subscription term and include all applicable state sales tax. For a replacement copy, call between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Monday through Friday; 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. Saturday; and 8 a.m. and noon Sunday. Circulation services numbers on Page 1.

The Los Angeles Daily News (ISSN 0279 8026) is published daily and Sunday by the Los Angeles Daily News Publishing Co., 21221 Oxnard St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Periodical postage paid at Woodland Hills and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Daily News, PO Box 4200, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

ONLY NEWS - mmm 25, 2003, p. 7

PROFFER RE FATHER FIDENCIO SIMON SILVA-FLORES, M.Sp.S.

Date	Description
10/28/49	Fidencio Simon Silva-Flores is born in Mexico City, Mexico.
12/25/76	Silva is professed into a religious order – the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit (M.Sp.S.)
09/24/78	Silva is ordained as a priest in Mexico City, Mexico.
10/78 - 03/86	Silva is assigned as Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish, Oxnard.
1986	Silva leaves the Archdiocese.
11/09/89	Silva is assigned to be in residence with Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in Playa del Rey.
07/26/90	Silva is in residence at the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Novitiate, Long Beach.
02/25/91	Silva is assigned to Hispanic Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese's Office of Hispanic Ministry, serving there through June 30, 1993. He continues to reside at the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Novitiate, Long Beach.
04/03/95	A rejected M.Sp.S. postulant ^{REDACTED} complains to Vicar for Clergy of inappropriate conduct by Silva. ^{REDACTED} was an adult at the time of the alleged misconduct. No child sexual abuse involved.
04/07/95	Vicar for Clergy meets with Silva and the personal representative of the M.Sp.S. provincial superior.
05/01/95	Silva leaves the Archdiocese and returns to Mexico.
05/04/95	Psychologist report to M.Sp.S. provincial superior, forwarded to Vicar for Clergy.
05/11/95	Report from M.Sp.S. provincial superior's representative concerning his investigation of ^{REDACTED} ; allegations concerning Silva.
04/02/02	Letter from attorney ^{REDACTED} to Archbishop re alleged "molestation of a number of youth by Father Fidencio Silva when he served at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard." The Archdiocese will not contend that it lacked notice of Silva's sexual interest toward minors following this date.
04/12/02 and 04/16/02	An adult male reports to the Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Ministry that Silva engaged in sexual misconduct with him from 1992-1994 when he was age 20 to 22.

104955

ID	50
CMOB #	050
Case Name	Fidencio Silva
Active Case?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cleric Name	Silva, Fidencio
Cleric Age	53
Cleric Ethnicity	Latino
Incardination	Religious Order
Date Of Ordination	
Clergy Status	Out of Diocese
Date Referred To Vicar	
Claimant	
Date Of Alleged Incident	
Investigation Complete	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigator Name	
Date Investigation Initiated	
Date Investigation Completed	
Case Disposition	
Intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description	<p>Mexican religious order priest, age 53, left diocese in 1995. Mentioned in L.A. Times article of August 25, 2002. April 2002 notification of allegations of abuse by Fr. of minors from 1979 to 1985 as Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard. On March 27, 2003, Ventura D.A. filed felony charges of 25 counts of child molestation of 8 youths. Fr. in ministry in Mexico since 1995. Other complaints of sexual misconduct with young adult males in 1995.</p>
Case Status	
November 10, 2004	Msgr. Cox stated that a letter is being sent to Rome in support of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit for their request for dismissal.
Follow Up	
Follow Up Date	
Legal Proceedings	
Sent To Rome?	<input type="checkbox"/> Date Sent To Rome
Canonical Trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Canonical Trial Date
Canonical Disposition	
Page	

Vicar for Clergy Database

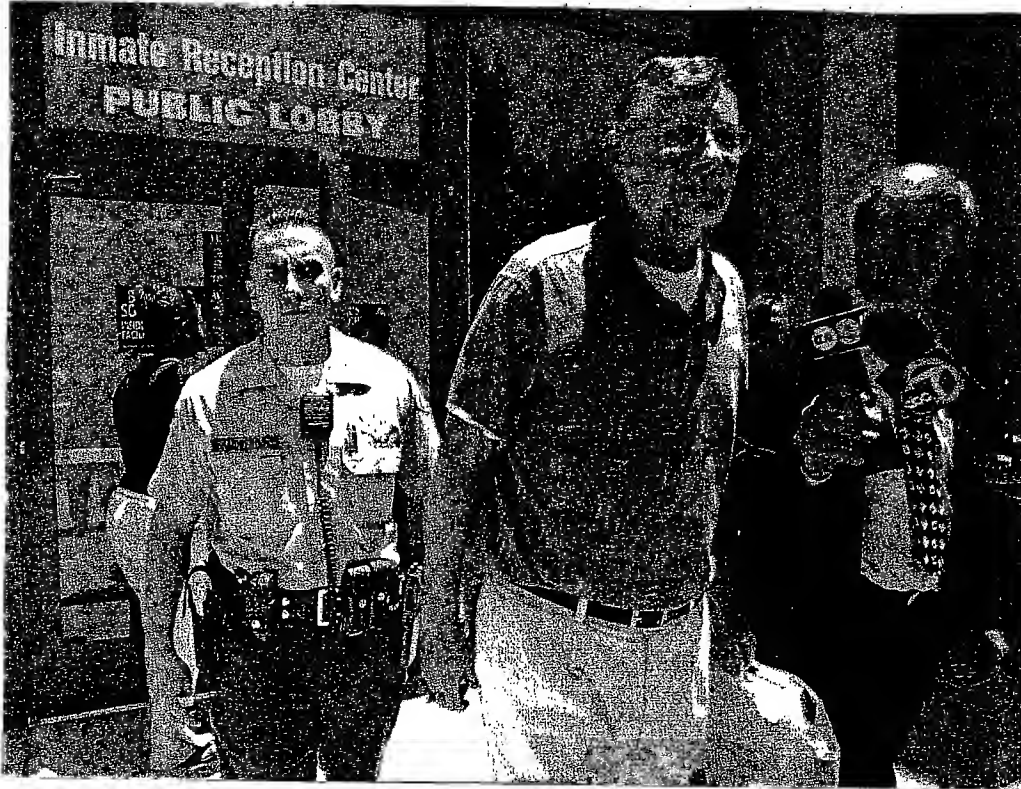
Clergy Assignment Record

Rev Fidencio Silva, M.Sp.S.

<i>Current Primary Assignment</i>		<i>Age</i>	60
<i>Birth Date</i>	10/28/1949	<i>Deanery</i>	0
<i>Birth City</i>	Mexico City, Mexico		
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	1/1/1978		
<i>Diocese Name</i>			
<i>Date of Incardination</i>			
<i>Religious Community</i>	Missionaries of the Holy Spirit		
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Left Archdiocese		
<i>Seminary</i>			
<i>Ethnicity</i>	English		

Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training*Date Background Check**Safeguard Training***Assignment History**

Assignment	Beginning Date	Completion Date
Left Archdiocese	5/1/1995	
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles, Active Service, Young Adult Ministry, Office of Hispanic Ministry	2/25/1991	6/30/1993
Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Novitiate, Long Beach Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	7/26/1990	4/30/1995
Missionaries of the Holy Spirit Novitiate, Long Beach Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	11/9/1989	7/25/1990
Casa de la Cruz, Camarillo Co-Director, Active Service, Co-Director of Vocations	8/1/1984	3/14/1986
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Oxnard Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	10/11/1978	7/31/1984



FREED: Retired priest Michael Wempe, center, walks out of County Jail in Los Angeles after a judge ordered his release on his own recognizance. He had been held on \$2-million bail on charges of molesting five boys 20 years ago. GERNARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

Cell Doors Swing Open After Ruling on Molestation Cases

By TRACY WILSON
AND MEGAN GARVEY
Times Staff Writers

It was 2:26 a.m., and Lawrence Lovell was one of the first out. The 55-year-old retired priest awaiting trial on charges of molesting four altar boys at the historic San Gabriel Mission left Los Angeles County Jail after less than a week behind bars.

Twelve hours later, Michael Wempe left his jail cell with a smile on his face. The 63-year-old retired priest, whose bail had been set two weeks ago at \$2 million, had been charged with molesting five boys 20 years ago.

Both men have denied the charges against them. As hearings next week, their cases are likely to be dismissed, prosecutors say.

And so it went Friday as prosecutors, defense attorneys and the state attorney general's office scrambled to come to grips with the repercussions of a U.S. Supreme Court decision invalidating a California law that had allowed decades-old child molestation cases to be prosecuted.

Lovell and Wempe are among hundreds of people — some convicted, some confessed, some still awaiting trial — who will be released from jails and prisons across California as a result of Thursday's decision.

RELATED STORY

Burden of proof: Hundreds of civil cases are also affected. A24

nia had violated the Constitution's ban on ex post facto — after the fact — laws when the Legislature decided to change the time limit for bringing criminal charges in child sex-abuse

cases and made the new limit retroactive to cover long-ago cases.

For many prosecutors, victims' advocates and police, the court's decision was hard to take.

The affected cases all involve not just allegations of abuse, but strong corroborating evidence which was required under

[See Abuse, P. 1]

Freedom for Many in Child Molestation Cases

[Abuse, from Page A1]
1994 law that the high court struck down.

"These are cases where almost always the perpetrator admitted the abuse in either direct interviews with investigators or the victims played a role in gathering evidence, making phone calls or meeting with the person while they were wired," said Kevin Murphy, a sex crimes prosecutor in Alameda County.

Friday morning, Murphy dismissed the case against Stephen Kiesel, a former priest who had told investigators that he molested a number of children three decades ago.

Kiesel had served time in the late 1970s in a separate child molestation case.

In Santa Clara County, Assistant Dist. Atty. Chuck Willingham spent long hours after the ruling, calling victims to let them know the outcome. About 100 cases in his county will be affected.

"I'm sorry," he told nearly a dozen men and women with whom he had worked to build strong cases. "This is terrible, and there's really nothing we can do about it."

The response, Willingham said, has been "anger, disdain, confusion, a lack of understanding as to how this could have possibly happened, resignation to outrage. These are not easy conversations to be a part of."

Willingham mentioned one case involving a husband and wife convicted on multiple counts of molesting children. A sentencing hearing had been scheduled for them for next week and they faced life in prison. Instead, they will be released.

"The reality is, they won't be child sexual predator lottery victims," Willingham said. "They won't be the jackpot." He also noted that with their convictions overturned, those getting out of jail will not be required to register as sex offenders.

"You're set-free," he said. "Thank you very much."

But even if a lawyer for a convicted child molester is charged with 14 counts of molestation, disputed that evaluation. Her client may no longer face prison as a result of the court ruling, but his life has been turned upside down by being publicly labeled a child molester, she said. "I don't think anybody is walking away from this thinking they got away with something," buty said.



PROTEST: Members of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests demonstrate against court ruling outside the Reagan state office building in downtown Los Angeles.

"These people have been tried and convicted in the press already and they still have to live with that stigma for the rest of their lives."

Sutphin's lawyers have agreed to wait until after his alleged victims are contacted before seeking dismissal of the charges against him. Ventura County Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Michael Frawley, who has been part of the prosecution effort against Sutphin, sighed as he talked about the slow and painstaking process now facing prosecutors.

"Here's our problem," Frawley said. "Not only is there a lot to do, but there is a great deal of disappointment walking the halls here. A lot of people put in a lot of effort to make those cases happen."

His prosecutors have not yet dismissed any cases but they have identified at least 20 that

are likely to be overturned as a result of the decision.

The case against Sutphin is one of the most high-profile.

Silva, a Catholic priest who from 1978 until 1986 ran the altar boy program at a church in Oxnard, was charged with 25 counts of child molestation in March, after a yearlong investigation.

Frawley, a supervisor on the case, said 12 to 14 alleged victims had been interviewed.

The process was emotional and time-consuming and, now, for naught.

California Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer sent a letter Friday to all district attorneys across the state, advising them to act quickly to comply with the court's decision. "Immediate motions for dismissal in the interest of justice would be appropriate," the letter said.

But Lockyer's office is taking the position that crimes that occurred between Jan. 1, 1983, and Jan. 1, 1994, are still prosecutable, according to Robert Anderson, chief assistant attorney general. That's because the statute of limitations for some sex crimes against children had been six years. For others, it had been three years.

Crimes that occurred after 1994 were not affected by the Supreme Court's decision.

Los Angeles Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley has estimated that at least 200 cases in the county may be affected by the ruling. But determining which cases are still viable is a slow process, officials said.

In San Mateo County, Deputy Dist. Atty. Rick Good said he wanted to call the victims was even more upsetting than the news of the ruling. On Thursday, Good phoned a woman who had been sexually abused in the 1970s, when she was 13 years old, by Ramiro Jack Long, a Redwood City karate teacher. Good told her that Long, convicted by a jury and expected to serve at least 16 years, would instead be released.

"She was devastated," Good said. The victim, now in her 40s, told Good she feared that Long might now come after her. She wanted to know when he would be released, saying that she planned to move.

Many alleged victims risked a lot by coming forward to testify; said San Bernardino County District Atty. Michael Ramos.

"That's the saddest part of this whole decision, but we will do our best to understand what this fully means and then gently give the news that these people will no longer be held responsible," Ramos said.

On Thursday, Good phoned a

"We're calling them and we're trying to keep their spirits up, but we're being very blunt with them. It doesn't appear that they're going to be able to achieve closure with law enforcement and justice. It's been taken away," said Elliot Beckelman, assistant district attorney in San Francisco.

Frawley said his Ventura County prosecutors will continue to reassure people who went to police with allegations of abuse that their efforts made a difference.

"We'll tell them that they definitely did the right thing in coming forward," he said.

It exposed a huge problem out there, and it served to educate the public about what a dirty secret this is."

Times staff writers Steve Berry, Li Feders, Jean Guccione, Hilda Muñoz and Lance Pugmire contributed to this report.

CALIFORNIA

LA Times 3/28/03

Priest Charged in Sex Abuse of Boys in Oxnard

Prosecutors are trying to find Father Fidencio Silva in connection with 25 counts of child molestation. He was last known to be stationed in Mexico.

By STEVE CHAWKINS
AND FRED ALVAREZ
Times Staff Writers

A Catholic priest who used to be in charge of the altar-boy program at an Oxnard church was charged Thursday with 25 counts of child molestation by the Ventura County district attorney's office.

After an investigation that took nearly a year, prosecutors are seeking an arrest warrant for Father Fidencio Silva, 53, who served at Our Lady of Guadalupe church from 1978 to 1988. They will start extradition proceedings when they locate Silva, who as recently as 2002 was serving at a church in Mexico.

The criminal charges follow a lawsuit filed by eight men, including two corporate executives, an attorney and two police officers. They were altar boys, 11 to 15 years old at the time, who helped Silva at services, according to a spokesman for the district attorney's office.

The criminal charges came as the clock was ticking on a state-imposed one-year limit between police learning of possible molestations and prosecutors filing charges. They also came with Easter just around the corner — a season of renewal, especially meaningful this year for Manuel Vega, 36, an Oxnard police officer who is one of Silva's accusers.

"What this does, not only for myself but other victims of Father Silva, is validate us as victims," said Vega, who this week urged a state Assembly committee to freeze the statute of limitations in child sex-abuse cases.

"For so many years, we all lived with these horrific incidents in silence and shame," Vega said. "Now, we are one step closer to getting to the truth."

For nearly 20 years, Vega pushed memories of the abuse into his subconscious, he said. In fact, he met with the priest in 1991 to ask whether he would consider performing a marriage ceremony for him and his fiancée. But Vega said he felt strangely anxious in the meeting and backed away from the idea.

It wasn't until he left the Marines the next year and entered the police academy that recollections of the alleged acts began to emerge.

Privately grappling with his experiences, Vega tracked down other former altar boys who also

claimed to have been molested by Silva at the church, in the rectory and on outings. The group hired attorneys to file suit against Silva, his order and the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

They also urged local prosecutors to take up the case.

On Thursday, Chief Assistant Dist. Atty. Patrick Murphy said the felony complaint caps a painstaking investigation into

suspected sex abuse by Silva and at least two other former Ventura County priests.

With the alleged crimes occurring so long ago, prosecutors have struggled to obtain evidence. They recently used a grand jury to subpoena witnesses and last month urged a judge to force the church to turn over documents. Joe Deems, an attorney

for Silva's order, Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, could not be reached for comment. He told The Times last May that the order investigated Silva after a 1995 complaint and concluded he had not committed a crime.

Silva received counseling during a leave of absence, before taking his post in San Luis Potosi, a mountainous state in central Mexico, Deems said.

In an interview last year with a television reporter, Silva said he asked boys to model for paintings but denied molesting them.

Times staff writers Tracy Wilson, Jennifer Ragland and William Lobdell contributed to this report.



Father Fidencio Silva denied allegations last year.

NEWSWIRE

MARCH 28, 2003 | CRIMINAL

[Print](#) | [Email](#)

[Top Stories](#)
[Admin/Regulatory](#)
[Bankruptcy](#)
[Corporate](#)
[Criminal](#)
[Employment](#)
[Healthcare/Hosp.](#)
[Insurance](#)
[Judges/Judiciary](#)
[Law Practice](#)
[Litigation](#)
[Probate](#)
[Real Estate](#)

[Daily Opinions](#)
[Email Delivery](#)
[Firm Watch](#)
[Transactions](#)
[California Lawyer](#)

[Editorial Staff](#)
[Columnists](#)
[Submissions](#)

Molestation Charges

OXNARD - The Ventura County District Attorney's Office on Thursday charged a former priest at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard with 25 counts of child molestation of eight youths occurring in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The office filed a felony criminal complaint against the Rev. Fidencio Silva, 53, charging him with molesting the youths while he presided over the altar boy program at the Oxnard church.

"Silva had access to large numbers of boys as the head of the altar boy program and various youth ministries," said Ventura Deputy District Attorney Patrice Koenig. "Up until now our focus has been the victims, but the next issue will be locating him and evaluating his assignment and transfer history."

Authorities are seeking an arrest warrant.

Archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg did not return calls for comment.

The district attorney's action brings to a dozen the number of Catholic priests who have been criminally accused of molesting parishioners in Southern California.

According to church documents obtained by the Daily Journal, Silva was ordained in 1978. He was the director of the Key of Life Youth Group from 1979 to 1982, and director of the Spanish Youth Group from 1980 to 1986 at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1986, church records show that he left the Los Angeles archdiocese.

He returned in 1989, according to the church documents, when he was in residence at the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in Playa del Rey.

Between 1991 and 1993, Silva ministered to young adults, according to the documents.

Silva left the archdiocese in 1995 and moved to Mexico, where authorities believe he now resides.

- Jeffrey Anderson

© 2003 Daily Journal Corporation. All rights reserved.

NEWSWIRE

MARCH 28, 2003 | CRIMINAL

[Print](#) | [Email](#)

[Top Stories](#)
[Admin/Regulatory](#)
[Bankruptcy](#)
[Corporate](#)
[Criminal](#)
[Employment](#)
[Healthcare/Hosp.](#)
[Insurance](#)
[Judges/Judiciary](#)
[Law Practice](#)
[Litigation](#)
[Probate](#)
[Real Estate](#)

[Daily Opinions](#)
[Email Delivery](#)
[Firm Watch](#)
[Transactions](#)
[California Lawyer](#)

[Editorial Staff](#)
[Columnists](#)
[Submissions](#)

Molestation Charges

OXNARD - The Ventura County District Attorney's Office on Thursday charged a former priest at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard with 25 counts of child molestation of eight youths occurring in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The office filed a felony criminal complaint against the Rev. Fidencio Silva, 53, charging him with molesting the youths while he presided over the altar boy program at the Oxnard church.

"Silva had access to large numbers of boys as the head of the altar boy program and various youth ministries," said Ventura Deputy District Attorney Patrice Koenig. "Up until now our focus has been the victims, but the next issue will be locating him and evaluating his assignment and transfer history."

Authorities are seeking an arrest warrant.

Archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg did not return calls for comment.

The district attorney's action brings to a dozen the number of Catholic priests who have been criminally accused of molesting parishioners in Southern California.

According to church documents obtained by the Daily Journal, Silva was ordained in 1978. He was the director of the Key of Life Youth Group from 1979 to 1982, and director of the Spanish Youth Group from 1980 to 1986 at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1986, church records show that he left the Los Angeles archdiocese.

He returned in 1989, according to the church documents, when he was in residence at the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in Playa del Rey.

Between 1991 and 1993, Silva ministered to young adults, according to the documents.

Silva left the archdiocese in 1995 and moved to Mexico, where authorities believe he now resides.

- Jeffrey Anderson

© 2003 Daily Journal Corporation. All rights reserved.

CALIFORNIA

LA Times 3/28/03

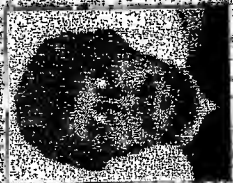
Priest Charged in Sex Abuse of Boys in Oxnard

Prosecutors are trying to find Father Fidencio Silva in connection with 25 counts of child molestation. He was last known to be stationed in Mexico.

By STEVE CHALKINS
AND FRED ALVAREZ
Times Staff Writers

A Catholic priest who used to be in charge of the altar at a pro-gram at an Oxnard church was charged Thursday with 25 counts of child molestation by the Ventura County district attorney's office.

After an investigation that took nearly a year, prosecutors are seeking an arrest warrant for Father Fidencio Silva, 53, who served at Our Lady of Guadalupe church from 1973 to 1986. They will start extradition proceedings when they locate Silva, who as recently as 2002 was seen at a church in Mexico.



Father Fidencio Silva denied the criminal allegations last year.

Charges follow a law suit filed by eight men, including two corporate executives, an attorney and two police officers, for Silva's order Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, could not be

The criminal allegations follow a law suit filed by eight men, including two corporate executives, an attorney and two police officers. They were altar boys, 11 to 15 years old at the time, who helped Silva at services, according to a spokesman for the district attorney's office.

The criminal charges came as the clock was ticking on a state-imposed one-year limit between police learning of possible molestations and prosecutors filing charges. They also came with Easter just around the corner — a season of renewal especially meaningful this year for Manuel Vega, 36, an Oxnard police officer who is one of Silva's accusers.

"What this does, not only for myself but other victims of Father Silva, is validate us as victims," said Vega, who this week urged a state Assembly committee to freeze the statute of limitations in child sex-abuse cases. "For so many years, we all lived with these horrific incidents in silence and shame," Vega said. "Now, we are one step closer to getting to the truth."

For nearly 20 years, Vega pushed memories of the abuse into his subconscious, he said. In fact, he met with the priest in 1991 to ask whether he would consider performing a marriage ceremony for him and his fiancée. But Vega said he felt strangely anxious in the meeting and backed away from the idea.

It wasn't until he left the Missiones the next year and entered the police academy that recollections of the alleged acts began to emerge. Privately grappling with his experiences, Vega tracked down other former altar boys who also

with a judge to force the church to turn over documents. Joe Deems, an attorney for Silva's order, Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, could not be reached for comment. He told The Times last May that the order investigated Silva after a 1995 complaint and concluded he had not committed a crime.

Silva received counseling during a leave of absence, before taking his post in San Luis Potosi, a mountainous state in central Mexico, Deems said. In an interview last year with a television reporter, Silva said he asked boys to model for paintings but denied molestating them. Times staff writers Tracy Wilson, Jennifer Ragland and William Lobdell contributed to this report.

NEWSWIRE

MARCH 28, 2003 | CRIMINAL

[Print](#) | [Email](#)

[Top Stories](#)
[Admin/Regulatory](#)
[Bankruptcy](#)
[Corporate](#)
[Criminal](#)
[Employment](#)
[Healthcare/Hosp.](#)
[Insurance](#)
[Judges/Judiciary](#)
[Law Practice](#)
[Litigation](#)
[Probate](#)
[Real Estate](#)

[Daily Opinions](#)
[Email Delivery](#)
[Firm Watch](#)
[Transactions](#)
[California Lawyer](#)

[Editorial Staff](#)
[Columnists](#)
[Submissions](#)

Molestation Charges

OXNARD - The Ventura County District Attorney's Office on Thursday charged a former priest at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard with 25 counts of child molestation of eight youths occurring in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The office filed a felony criminal complaint against the Rev. Fidencio Silva, 53, charging him with molesting the youths while he presided over the altar boy program at the Oxnard church.

"Silva had access to large numbers of boys as the head of the altar boy program and various youth ministries," said Ventura Deputy District Attorney Patrice Koenig. "Up until now our focus has been the victims, but the next issue will be locating him and evaluating his assignment and transfer history."

Authorities are seeking an arrest warrant.

Archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg did not return calls for comment.

The district attorney's action brings to a dozen the number of Catholic priests who have been criminally accused of molesting parishioners in Southern California.

According to church documents obtained by the Daily Journal, Silva was ordained in 1978. He was the director of the Key of Life Youth Group from 1979 to 1982, and director of the Spanish Youth Group from 1980 to 1986 at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1986, church records show that he left the Los Angeles archdiocese.

He returned in 1989, according to the church documents, when he was in residence at the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in Playa del Rey.

Between 1991 and 1993, Silva ministered to young adults, according to the documents.

Silva left the archdiocese in 1995 and moved to Mexico, where authorities believe he now resides.

- Jeffrey Anderson

© 2003 Daily Journal Corporation. All rights reserved.

FIDENCIO SILVA - CMOB-050-01

Religious order priest, age 53
 Mexican, left diocese 5/95
 In Mexico

- 11/15/94 Ltr to Spanish Minister Coordinator at St. John Vianney Church from parishioner and lector REDACTED, very upset about the way Father preached about Prop. 187 (anger/racist).
- 04/03/95 Memo to file re allegations of REDACTED, a novitiate who left; listed incidents where Father encouraged novitiates to undress, sexual suggestiveness – made him very uncomfortable. Asked him to disrobe and sit in front of him, asked him to have an erection in front of him. At one time, Fr. put his hands on his genitals; found porno in Fr.'s room.
- 05/12/95 Ltr to V/C (Dyer) from Fr. Domenico Di Raimondo M.Sp.S. enclosing the report on the investigation of allegations (report in Spanish).
- 5/22/95 Ltr from V/C office to REDACTED requesting Spanish translation.
- 11/29/95 Draft of ltr to Fr. acknowledging receipt of his 71 page testimony dated 9/29/95 from Fr. denying allegations. V/C states that the allegations of the young adults have been accepted as true, and that an application for future ministry in this archdiocese will have to be considered in light of these matters. Wishes him a fruitful ministry in Mexico.
- 11/29/95 Memo to V/C (Dyer) from REDACTED noting that Fr. left the diocese in May 1995 and note that the translation of the report was not received; also discusses the personnel file.
- 9/29/95 71 page ltr from Fr. to V/C. *[not apparently any minors]*
- 11/30/95 Ltr from V/C to Fr. in final form (draft 11/29)
- 12/01/95 Memo from Dyer to V/C (Loomis) re lengthy 71 page ltr from Fr. – Dyer made notes in the margins.
- 12/5/95 Ltr to V/C from psychologist treating REDACTED
 REDACTED
- English translation of 5/11/95 response to the allegations by REDACTED from REDACTED investigation including interviews with fellow students in "postulatory" with REDACTED – reference is made to "imprudent practices". Fr. has agreed to undergo therapy. They will be sending report of the therapy to AD.

05/04/95 Translation of letter to REDACTED from REDACTED (signed by Fr.) re findings.

4/7/95 Memo from REDACTED to V/C re report on the interview with Fr. re allegations.

3/14/02: Handwritten letter (in Spanish) to Cardinal Mahony from REDACTED

3/27/02 Letter in Spanish from V/C to REDACTED, provincial in Mexico.

3/27/02 Ltr in Spanish from V/C to Fr. in response to letter from REDACTED

4/2/02 Ltr from atty REDACTED to Cardinal and REDACTED re Fr. accusing him of molestation of a number of youths at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard.

4/2/02 Ltr to Cardinal from REDACTED about his contact with REDACTED

4/6/02 Ltr. to REDACTED in Garden Grove from V/C re Fr.

4/15/02 Ltr in Spanish to V/C from provincial in Mexico re Fr.

Press statement re Fr. allegations of abuse in Oxnard.

05/3/02 Reprint of L.A. Times article – Ventura County – accusing Fr. of abuse of 8 boys from 1979 to 1985 as Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard.

7/18/02 Reprint from Ventura County Star of press conference with REDACTED speaking for plaintiffs in class action lawsuit.

Bills for therapy of REDACTED

9/16/02 Ltr to REDACTED re bills for therapy to be sent to Fr.

Subpoena Duces Tecum – to appear 1/2/03

CMOB-050-01 “FIDENCIO SILVA” – Mexican religious order priest, age 53, left diocese in 1995. Mentioned in L.A. Times article of August 25, 2002. April 2002 notification of allegations of abuse by Fr. of minors from 1979 to 1985 as Pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard. Reported to authorities. Fr. left diocese in 1995; in ministry in Mexico. Other complaints of sexual misconduct with young adult males in 1995. REDACTED to give status report.

Ventura DA
**3/27/03 - Charged w/ felony*
25 counts of child molestation
of 8 youths in late 70's & early 80's.